(c) the estimated percentage of couples in the reproduction age who use available means for family planning: and

(d) the variation in the above on the basis of region, religion, income and education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates, the annual natural growth rate of population since 1991 is as follows :

Year	Natural Growth Rate of Population (per cent)
1991	1.97
1992	1.91
1993	1.94
1994	1.94
1995 (Provisional)	1.93

(c) According to the National Family Health Survey, 1992-93, 40.6% are practising Family Planning.

(d) The National Family Health Survey, 1992-93 revealed that the percentage of currently married women using contraceptive methods was

(i) 51.0% in urban areas compared to 36.9% in rural areas.

(ii) 54.7% for women with 'High School and above' compared to 33.9% for illiterate women.

(iii) 62.6% for Jains followed by 57.6% for Sikhs, 50.4% for Buddhists, 48.3% for Christians, 41.6% for Hindus, 27.7% for Muslims and 37.4% for Others.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion

1412. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the continuous soil erosion of the banks of different rivers in Gujarat particularly in the tribal areas and backward areas during the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this soil erosion;

(c) whether financial assistance was provided to the Gujarat Government during the said period to stop it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the way by which the above amount was spent by the Gujarat Government and the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Erosion of river banks during floods is a natural phenomenon. These details are not kept at the Central level. No specific case has been brought to the notice of this Ministry in the recent past.

(e) Investigation, planning and execution of flood control and anti erosion works are primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government (Planning Commission) provides plan funds to the States by way of block loan and grant and no separate allocations are made by the Central Government for soil erosion of river banks. Such allocations are made by the State Governments.

[English]

Non-availability of Medicines in CGHS

1413. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for purchase of medicines for CGHS Unani dispensaries/units in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the amount remained unutilised during the last three years alongwith the reasons in each case; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed on any official for not utilising the amount in true spirit whereas the CGHS Unani beneficiaries faced hardships due to non-availability of medicines in such dispensaries/units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The funds allocated for purchase of medicines for CGHS Unani dispensaries/units in Delhi were Rs. 58 lakhs, Rs. 70 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(b) and (c) Orders for the medicines were placed to the extent of the available budget in each of the last three years. However, some amount remained unutilised on account of late receipt of supplies from the firms and non-receipt of bills in time.

[Translation]

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

1414. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have carried out any economic appraisal of the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana';

(b) if so, the details thereof: